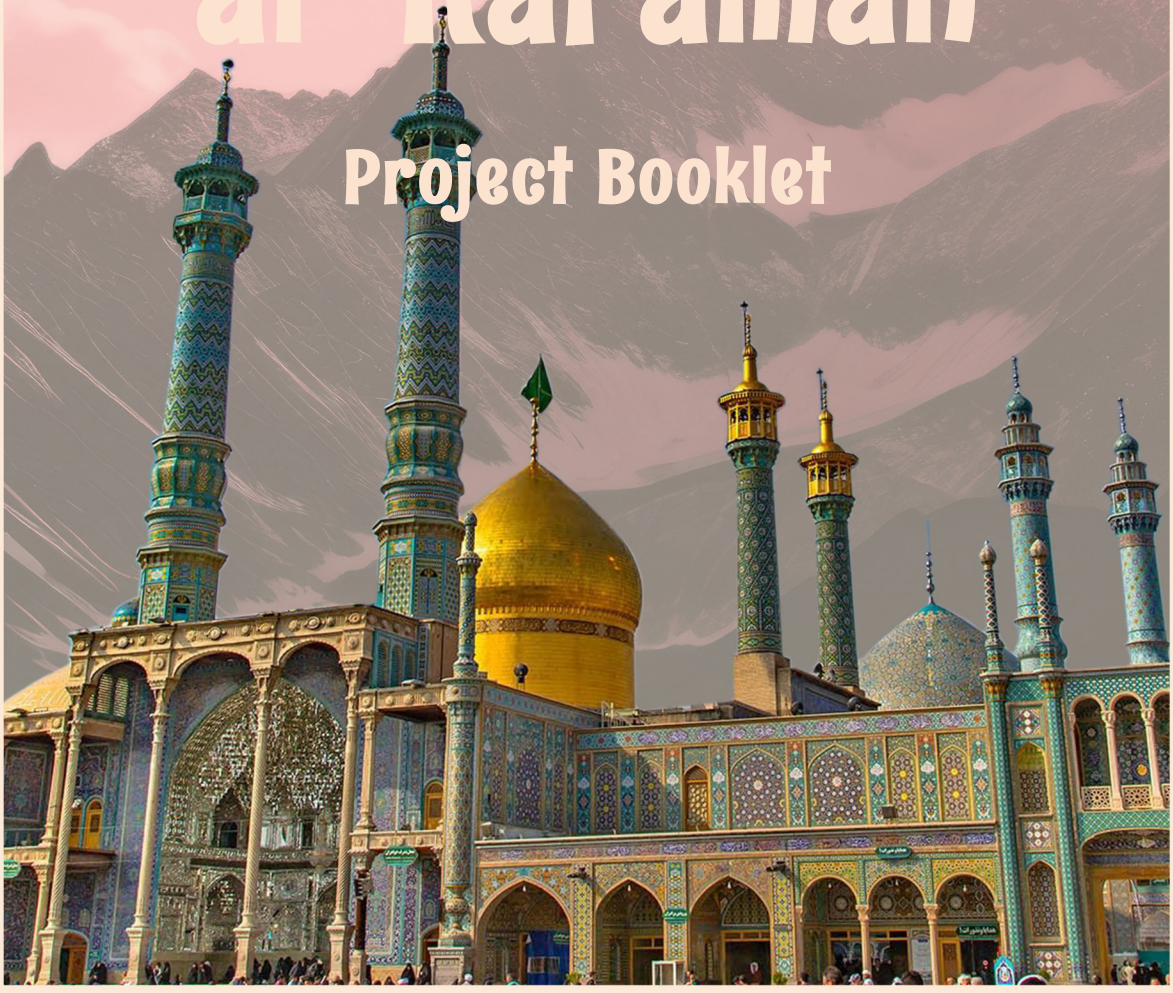
Book 4

The 10 Days of al-Karamah

Project Booklet



Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
the sponsors of this project booklet.

Important dates in Dhul Qaʿdah

1st	Wilādah of Lady Fāṭimah Maʿṣūmah
11th	Wilādah of Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā (ʿa)
25th	Daḥwul Arḍ (when the Earth was spread)
29th	Shahādah of Imām Muḥammad at-Taqī (ʿa)

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Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of those
who contributed to this booklet.

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

al-Islam.org

Easy Peasy and Fun: Lighthouse Art for Kids
Kisa Kids Games

بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِندَ اللَّـهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ

Surely, the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most God-conscious among you.[1]

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Salāmun ʿAlaykum!

Alḥamdulillah, we have recently completed the blessed month of Shahr Ramaḍān and will soon enter the month of Muḥarram. But we should always be looking to charge our spiritual batteries throughout the year. Therefore, in this month of Dhul Qaʿdah, we will celebrate the Ten Days of al-Karāmah. These ten days are celebrated with the wilādāt of two blessed personalities: Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā (ʿa) (11th Dhul Qaʿdah), and his sister Lady Fāṭimah Maʿṣūmah (1st Dhul Qaʿdah).

Al-Karāmah is a very high level of connection to Allah (swt) that one can reach. We can understand *Karāmah* as honor, dignity, and kindness that is achieved through *taqwa*, God consciousness. This level of human spirituality is reached through sincerity and a conscious effort to achieve nearness to Allah (swt).

Thus, the purpose of the ten days of *al-Karāmah* is to establish a strong connection to the *fuyuḍāt ilāhi* (blessings of Allah (swt)) and the blessed personalities who have reached this level.

One of the personalities we remember during this week, Lady Maʿṣūmah, is a prime example of one who has reached this lofty status. She dedicated her entire life striving for this rank, and was thus bestowed the title of *Karīmah* by the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa).

If we look closely at the life of Lady Maʿṣūmah, we find that she was thirsty for attaining knowledge and the teachings of Allah (swt). In turn, Allah (swt) made her final resting place one of the centers of knowledge. Her legacy lives on in Qum, which is now a hub of knowledge. Seekers of knowledge from all over the world flock to Qum, a city that houses thousands of scholars and institutions, in pursuit of the highest level of knowledge. Consequently, many of these scholars travel the world to spread this knowledge and its blessings.

Lady Maʿsūmah was the door to Imāmat, and because both hers and Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā's birthdays fall in the first ten days of Dhul Qaʿdah, we take this opportunity to understand and celebrate the ten days of *al-Karāmah*.

In honor of these blessed days, we are pleased to launch the annual 10 Days of al-Karāmah Project Booklet. This booklet includes five lesson plans that have been put together in collaboration with scholars and educators. We pray that through the lessons of this booklet, which focus on *Karāmah* and education, we are able to achieve high levels of *ikhlāṣ* (sincerity), *Karāmah* (honor), and *ʿizzah* (dignity), inshāAllāh.

Jazākallāh khayr and Best Wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

1 Noble Qurʾān, Sūrah al-Ḥujurāt (49), Verse 13.

The Meaning of Karāmah

Objective: Children will learn the meaning of Karāmah.

Many people from all over the world try to climb to the top of Mt. Everest, the tallest mountain in the world. They climb it because they find it to be the ultimate challenge, the best accomplishment a climber can have in making it to the top of the tallest mountain. Similarly, there is the highest spiritual place we try to reach in our life, the ultimate challenge for us in this world.

In the Noble Qurʾān, Allah (swt) defines the highest rank of belief when He says, "Indeed The noblest of you in the sight of Allah (swt) is the most God-conscious among you. Indeed Allah (swt) is the All-Knowing, All-Aware."[1] According to this āyah, those people who are God-conscious will reach the high spiritual position of Karāmah. Karāmah can be defined as a combination of honor, dignity, and kindness along with a state of God-consciousness.

Someone who is God-conscious is aware of Allah (swt) at all times, and makes choices according to Allah's wishes. There are many levels of God-consciousness, and people with God-consciousness or taqwa can then reach Karāmah. Just like mountain climbers, we can work our way up to the highest place in the eyes of Allah (swt). We are all capable of achieving Karāmah. This requires a lot of focus on Allah (swt) and our relationship with Him, and in return we can reach the highest levels of Jannah, inshāʾAllāh! Today, we will make a special project to help us remember that reaching Allah (swt) is a journey that has many levels.

1 Noble Qurʾān, Sūrah al-Ḥujurāt (49), Verse 13.

Mountain Climbing

Suggested Ages: 5+

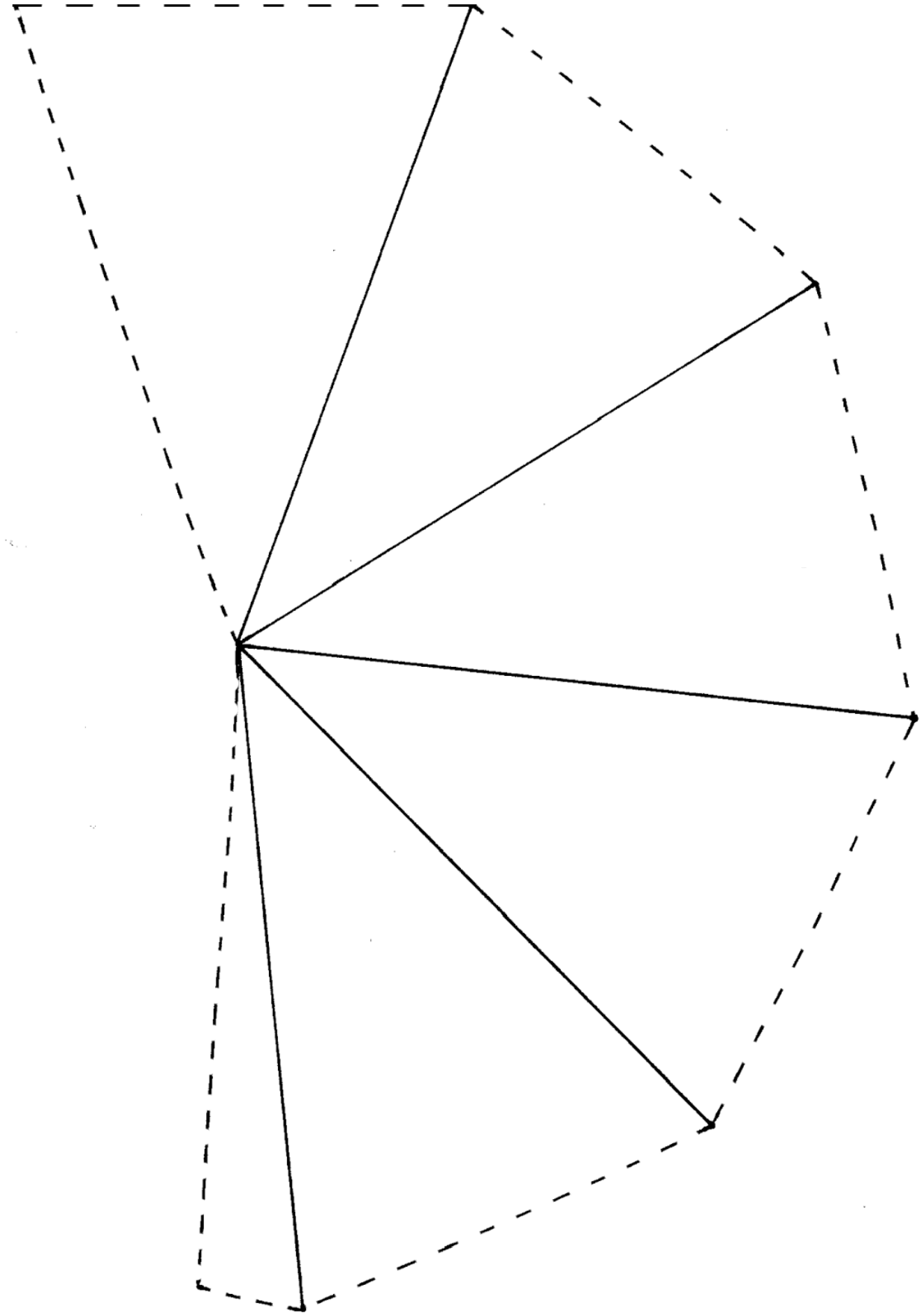
Time: 45 minutes

Materials:

- Mountain template
- Coloring pencils
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the mountain template however you like.
2. On the mountain, write different goals for becoming better muslims and getting closer to Allah (swt) and Ahlul Bayt (ʿa).
3. Cut out the mountain by cutting all along the dotted lines.
4. Next, fold along all of the solid lines. Glue the narrowest triangle to the opposite triangle to make a pyramid shape.
5. The top of the mountain is like the highest possible level of belief and nearness to Allah (swt).



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Lady Fāṭimah Maʿṣūmah

Objective: Children will learn about Lady Fāṭimah Maʿṣūmah.

Earlier, we learned an āyah from the Qurʾān that said the highest level of believers are those who have achieved the status of Karāmah because they are God-conscious. In these Days of Karāmah, we celebrate the wilādah of Lady Fāṭimah Maʿṣūmah, who is an excellent example of Karāmah. She was pious, and learned and followed the example of the Imām of her time. One of the titles of Lady Maʿṣūmah, given to her by the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa), was Karīmah.

Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj) is the Imām of our time. We all have a duty to follow our Imām (ʿaj) and be the good Muslims that he would be proud of. When Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa) was the Imām of the time, his sister Lady Maʿṣūmah was one of his loyal followers. She achieved a high status.

We should follow the example of Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj) and all of the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) in good akhlāq and worship. In this way, we can climb up to a higher place of belief, and reach the level of Karāmah. Today we will make a special project to help us remember to follow our Imām (aj) so that we may reach a level of piety and God-consciousness, inshāʾAllāh.

Ladder of Taqwa

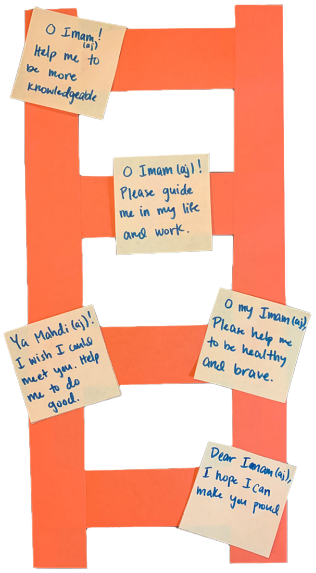
Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 45 Minutes

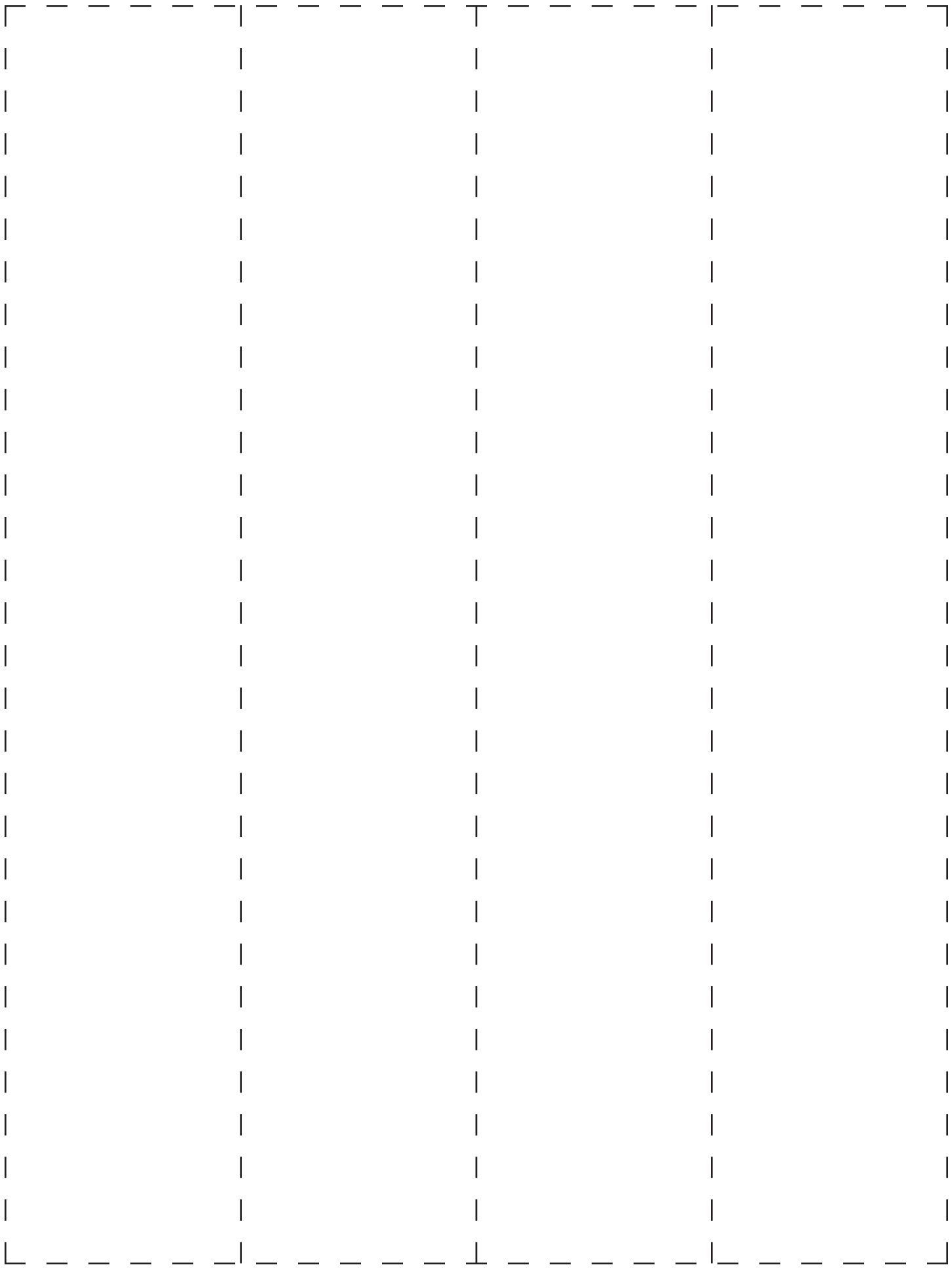
Materials:

- Ladder templates (or construction paper)
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Markers
- Scissors
- Note cards or Post-its
- Glue/tape

Procedure:



1. Cut out the pieces of the ladder from the template (optional: you can make your own ladder pieces using construction paper and cutting out the same size and number strips or paper). The ladder can be as long or short as you like.
2. Assemble the ladder. The longer strips of paper will be the legs of the ladder, and the shorter strips of paper will be the steps.
3. Glue or tape the pieces together to make the ladder.
4. Color and decorate the ladder however you like.
5. Tape the ladder to a wall or on a poster board affixed to the wall.
6. Now, on the note cards or post-its, write your any message or prayers of commitment, love, wishes, and requests for help that you want to share with our Imām (ʿaj).
7. Attach the notes to the ladder using glue or tape.



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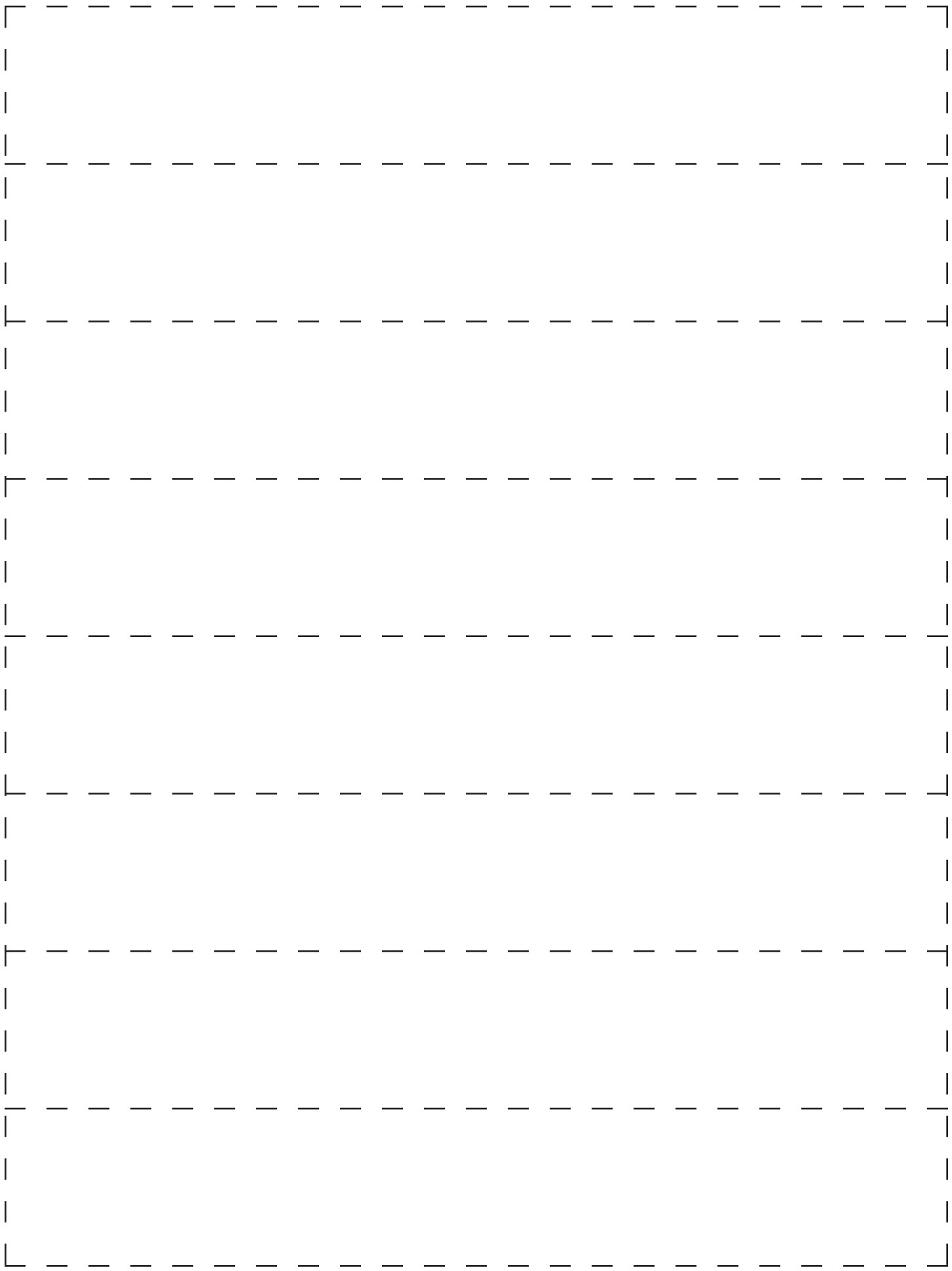

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Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa)

Objective: Children will learn about facing difficulties, taught by Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa).

During these Days of Karāmah, we also celebrate the wilādah of our 8th Imām, Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa). Like many of our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa), he faced many hardships from people who were against Islam. All of our Imāms have shown us that following the right path means hard work, persistence, striving to do good, and overcoming difficulties.

In our difficult times, we can always turn to Allah (swt) for help and safety. Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa) has said, "I heard my father Mūsā ibn Jaʿfar say that I heard my father Jaʿfar ibn Muḥammad say that I heard my father Muḥammad ibn ʿAlī say that I heard my father ʿAlī ibn Ḥusayn say that I heard my father Ḥusayn ibn ʿAlī say that I heard my father Amīrul Muʾminīn ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib say that I heard Allah's Messenger say that I heard Jibrāʾīl say that I heard Allah say that 'the sentence lā ilāha illallāh is my fortress, so whoever enters my fortress will be safe from my punishment.'"

"Lā ilāha illallāh" means "there is no god except Allah." In this ḥadīth, Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa) is telling us that as long as we remember Allah (swt), He will protect us and give us the strength to always do what makes Him happy. The light of guidance that Allah (swt) has given us is the Qurʾān and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa). Today, we will make a project that will teach us to follow the light of Allah (swt), to help on our journey to Him, inshāʾAllāh.

Light of Guidance

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 45 minutes

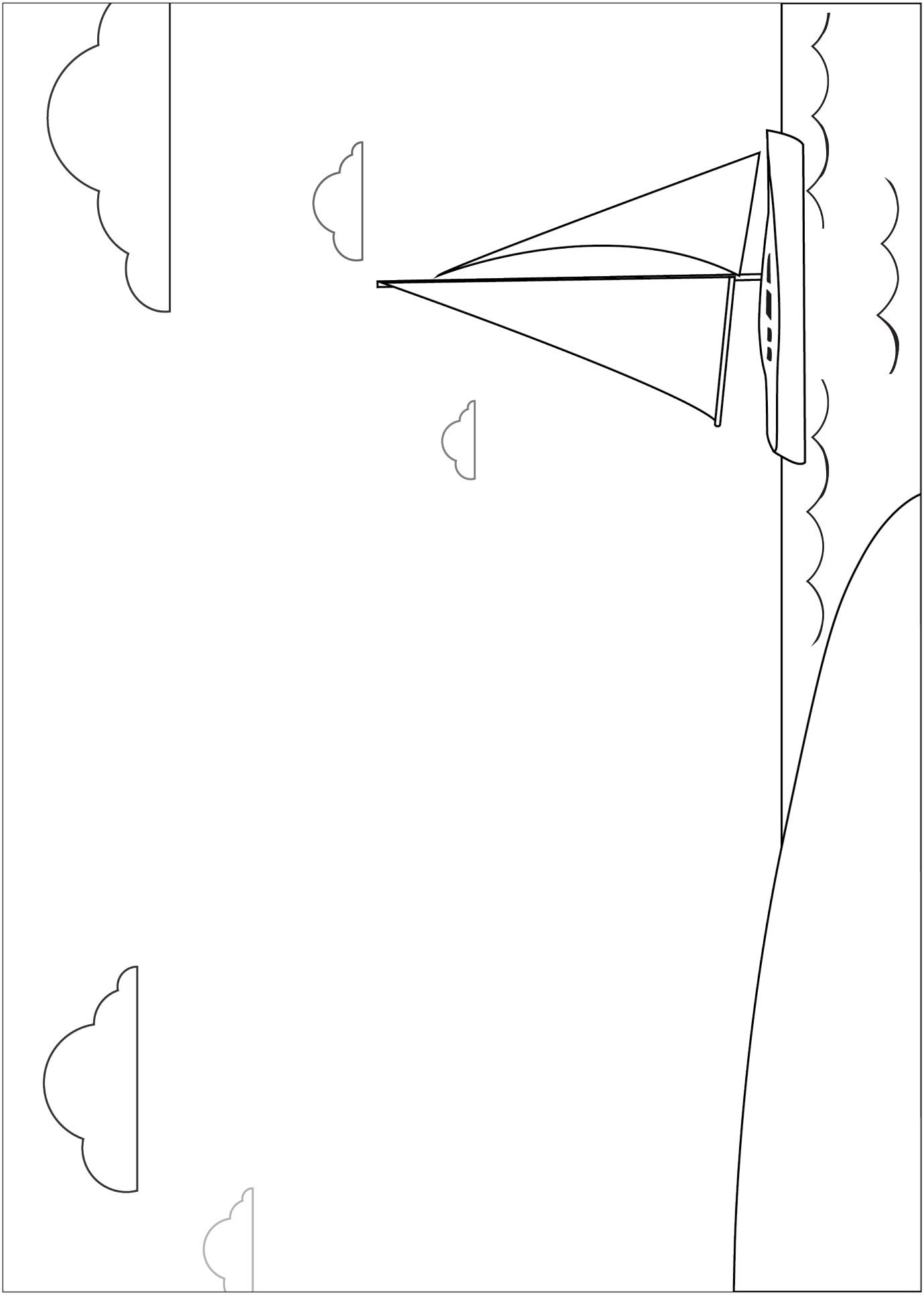
Materials:

- Lighthouse template
- Toilet paper roll (or half a paper towel roll)
- Yellow paper
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Optional: paint or colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue (preferably liquid glue)

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the picture however you like.
2. Cut the paper roll length-wise on both sides to make 2 half cylinders.
3. Decorate one half of the paper roll to look like a lighthouse (optional: you can use paint or construction paper).
4. Cut the other half width-wise to make a small square and draw a window.
5. Put glue on the 2 long edges of the lighthouse piece and glue it to the picture, on the hill.
6. Do the same for the smaller piece, pasting it above the lighthouse piece.
7. Cut out a long triangle shape from the yellow paper. This will be the light coming from the lighthouse.
8. Glue the light to the picture next to the top of the lighthouse.
9. Finish decorating the craft however you like.

Craft inspired by: Easy Peasy and Fun



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Family Bonds

Objective: Children will learn about the importance of family relations in our lives.

Throughout our lives, we will interact and create bonds with many different people. However, our relationships with our family members are some of the most important and influential. Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) has described family as our best supporters. They bring us together and keep us connected. We require their help physically and verbally, and they are the most affectionate when we face any troubles.

We can see an example of great familial bond between Imām ar-Riḍā (ʿa) and his sister Lady Maʿṣūmah. As an elder brother, he was a role model for his sister. Both shared the qualities of empathy, contentment, and kindness toward others. Lady Maʿṣūmah also recognized and knew his place as an Imām (ʿa). She was his sister as well as his devoted follower. When the 8th Imām (ʿa) had left Medina, she was very sad and missed him dearly.

The greatest relatives are those who love, understand, and help each other reach their goals. They also encourage and inspire us to do good and stay away from anything that will make Allah (swt) unhappy. Therefore, it is very important that we maintain our bond with them. Today, we will do an activity with our siblings or relatives.

Activities to do with Family

Here are some suggestions of games or activities to do with your family. You can pick any of the ones, or come up with your own. The goal is to spend time with them and strengthen your relationship with them.

1. Using 2 plastic cups and a string, make a string telephone to communicate with each other.
2. Throw a balloon in the air to each other. The goal is to not let it fall to the ground.
3. Play hide and seek
4. 20 Questions is a game where one person thinks of an object, and the other players take turns asking yes-or-no questions to try to guess what it is. They have up to 20 questions to narrow down the possibilities and make their guess.
5. The alphabet game is where participants try to find words or objects starting with each letter of the alphabet, in order, based on a category, e.g. country names.

You can also check out these games by Kisa Kids.

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What is Knowledge?

Objective: Children will learn about different kinds of knowledge.

Lady Fāṭimah Maʿṣūmah was known for her love of knowledge and spreading the teachings of Allah (swt). She had a major influence in the development of Qum and is sometimes referred to as Lady Maʿṣūmah of Qum. Throughout her journey, among the companions and friends of the Imāms (ʿa), and especially after her arrival in Qum, she sowed the seeds of knowledge and wilāyah. She transformed it into a hub of knowledge and a beacon of enlightenment during times of oppression.

Once, someone asked the Noble Prophet (ṣ), "what is knowledge?" The Prophet (ṣ) said that knowledge is "to keep silent…listen attentively…remember…act upon (what is learned)…[and] propagate."[1] From this, we can see that knowledge comes in many forms. Knowledge is keeping silent when we don't have enough information on a certain topic. It is listening quietly and paying attention to what others are saying. It is remembering the things that we learn. It is practicing what we have learned through our actions. And when we are able to, knowledge is teaching others what we know.

So, just like the Prophet (ṣ) taught, we should remember to keep quiet and listen, remember what we learn, act upon it, and share it with others. That's how we can grow in knowledge and wisdom, just like Lady Maʿṣūmah did. Today, we are going to make a craft that can encourage us to gain knowledge in whatever way we can.

1 ʿAllāmah Majlisī, *Biḥār al-Anwār*, Vol. 2, P. 28.

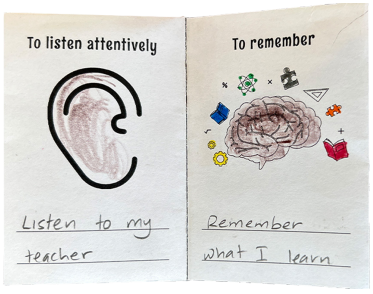
Types of Knowledge Booklet

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Booklet template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Pen/pencil
- Markers
- Scissors
- Stapler



Procedure:

1. Color the pictures in the template however you like. Write an example for each kind of knowledge.
2. Cut out the template by cutting along the dotted outer edge.
3. Fold the template in half widthwise (the dotted line in the center should be perpendicular to the folded edge).
4. Then, with the paper still folded, cut along the dotted line.
5. Now unfold the paper and fold it lengthwise (the cut should be parallel to the fold).
6. Next, holding the ends of the folded paper, push towards the center so that the paper forms a plus sign.
7. Once the paper is in the shape of a plus sign, locate the front and back covers and fold them over like a booklet.
8. Open the booklet to the middle and lay it flat. Staple along the solid line to prevent the booklet from coming undone.
9. Press the fold firmly so that it lies as flat as possible.

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What is Knowledge?

To act upon

5

To propagate

6

What are some types of knowledge?

1

To remember

4

To keep silent

2

To listen attentively

3

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